

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-17

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01 TRSE-00 RSR-01 /115 W

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R 202111 Z JUN 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4346

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 2225

ALSO GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, XK

SUBJECT: COSTA RICA REFUSES TO PAY ODECA QUOTA

REF: GUATEMALA 1 597

1. COSTA RICAN FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALO FACIO TOLD THE PRESS ON JUNE 18 THAT COSTA RICA WILL NOT PAY ANY FUTURE ODECA QUOTAS, NOR WILL IT PAY THE \$80,000 NOW OWED TO ODECA BY COSTA RICA. FACIO SAID THAT ODECA DOES NOTHING, AND NOTED THAT ITS EXECUTIVE COUNCIL HAD NOT MET SINCE HE HAS BEEN FOREIGN MINISTER. HE SAID THAT ODECA SHOULD BE MAINTAINED SOLELY AS A SYMBOL OF UNION, AND THAT ITS SECRETARIAT SHOULD BE REDUCED TO COMPRISE ONLY AN EXECUTIVE OFFICER AND TWO OR THREE SECRETARIES TO HANDLE CORRESPONDENCE. FACIO ALSO TOLD THE PRESS THAT BUDGET SUPPORT FOR ODECA NOW DEPENDS UPON ONLY THREE MEMBERS, FOLLOWING HONDURAS' DE FACTO WITHDRAWAL AND NICARAGUA' S DECISION NOT TO PAY ITS QUOTA AFTER DECEMBER 23 EARTHQUAKE.

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2. THE FOLLOWING DAY (JUNE 19), ACTING ODECA SECRETARY GENERAL ALVARO FERNANDEZ TOLD THE PRESS THAT IT WAS " UTOPIAN TO THINK THAT ODECA COULD CONTINUE WITHOUT THE POLITICAL SUPPORT OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS". HE SAID THAT THE ODECA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE, CONSISTING OF MEMBER NATIONS' AMBASSADORS RESIDENT IN SAN SALVADOR, HAD MET AND AGREED TO ASK FACIO FOR A WRITTEN STATEMENT OF COSTA RICA' S POSITION TOWARD ODECA. (APPARENTLY ONLY THE REPRESENTATIVES OF GUATEMALA, EL SALVADOR, AND NICARAGUA, WERE PRESENT AT THIS MEETING.) FERNANDEZ ADDED THAT HE AGREED WITH FACIO THAT ODECA WAS " NOT OPERATING, THE SAME AS THE OTHER PERMANENT BODIES FORMED BY THE CA INTEGRATION TREATY". PRESS REPORTS STATED THAT ONE ALTERNATIVE CONSIDERED BY THE ODECA EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WAS THE DISSOLUTION OF THE ODECA SECRETARIAT, WHILE MAINTAINING ODECA AS A STRUCTURE FOR EVENTUAL MEETINGS OF THE FIVE CA FOREIGN MINISTERS.

3. COMMENT: FACIO' S ANNOUNCEMENT IS DOUBTLESS THE RESULT OF THE CA FONMIN' S MEETING DESCRIBED REFTTEL, IN WHICH DECISION WAS TAKEN TO SHIFT ODECA' S TECHNICAL AND SOCIAL FUNCTIONS TO SIECA, IN VIEW OF ODECA' S BUDGETARY PROBLEMS. AS EXAMPLE OK LOW COSTA RICAN OPINION OF ODECA, ONE NEWSPAPER REPORTED FACIO' S REMARKS BUT CONFUSED ORGANIZATION WITH CONDECA, LONG A TARGET OF COSTA RICAN SCORN. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN IF ANY COSTA RICAN FINANCIAL SUPPORT WILL BE FORTHCOMING FOR THE MINIMALLY- STAFFED VERSION OF ODECA SUGGESTED BY FACIO.
VAKY

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*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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